

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present Application. Claims 15, 20 and 24 are allowed, claims 1-7, 10-14, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 25 are rejected, and claims 8, 9, 18, 22 and 23 are objected to. By this Reply, claims 4, 9, 16, 21 and 23 have been amended, and claims 1-3, 8, 12-14, 18, 22 and 25 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 4-7, 9-11, 15-17, 19-21, 23 and 24 are currently at issue.

In Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,060 to DeSpain et al. ("DeSpain"). In Paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of DeSpain. In view of the amendments discussed below, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot.

In Paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 15, 20 and 24. Applicant appreciates the allowance of these claims.

In Paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8, 9, 18, 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended claim 4 to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 8. Applicant has further amended the dependency of claim 9 accordingly. Applicant has amended claim 16 to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 18. Applicant has also amended claim 21 to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 22. Applicant has further amended the dependency of claim 23 accordingly. Applicant notes that for antecedent purposes, claims 22 and 23 should depend from claim 21 and not claims 17 and 18 respectively. In view of the above amendments, Applicant submits that independent claims 4, 16 and 21 are allowable. As claims 5-7, 9-11, 17, 19, 23 depend respectively from claims 4, 16 and 21, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early notice of the same. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if any issue can be resolved in a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Paul J. Nykaza, Registration No. 38,984
Customer No. 22908
Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
10 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-463-5000

(1223031)